

Algerian named to head Arabsat

ALGIERS (R) — Space telecommunications engineer Abdul Kader Bahr of Algeria has been nominated director-general of the Arab Satellite Telecommunications Organisation (Arabsat), officials said Wednesday. Mr. Bahr replaces Ali Mashat who was dismissed because of what was officially described as "poor coordination" between him and Arabsat's board of directors. Mr. Bahr was appointed during Arabsat's ninth annual general assembly which ended here Tuesday night. The organisation decided a series of measures to encourage Arab states to make maximum use of the Arabsat satellite since only 1,300 of its 9,000 circuits are being used at present. The assembly decided to modify rates for rental of Arabsat circuits to bring them in line with those for the Intelsat satellite, and to allow the board to accept applications for circuits from non-Arab clients and non-government Arab users. The next general assembly will be held in Libya.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية، الراي

King attends army exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Wednesday attended the final phase of a major military exercise with live ammunition which was conducted by one of the Armed Forces formations. Helicopters and fighters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and back-up and service weapons were employed in the exercise. The exercise included all stages of a future battle and the King was briefed by the division's commander on the various stages of the formation's training. The director of military operations also presented a briefing on the exercise. At the end of the exercise the King met with commanders and soldiers of the formation and congratulated them for excellent standard of training and high efficiency.

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King, Queen send good wishes to Queen Beatrix

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to Queen Beatrix of Holland on the occasion of her birthday. In the cable, the King and Queen wished Queen Beatrix health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Dutch people.

Parliament recessed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued on Wednesday concluding the current parliament session as of Friday, May 2. In accordance with the Constitution, Parliament reconvenes in an ordinary session on Oct. 10 unless summoned for an extraordinary session between May and October. The conclusion of the current ordinary session was in implementation of Article 78 of the Constitution. Another Royal Decree endorsed an amendment to the civil health insurance scheme. Another decree approved a pan-Arab agreement on arbitration in commercial affairs. The agreement lays down principles for settling trade issues among Arab states.

Qataris withdraw from disputed reef

BAHRAIN (R) — Qatari troops are pulling out of a disputed Gulf reef which they seized last Saturday and arrangements are in hand to send 29 construction workers held in the raid back to Bahrain, diplomatic sources said Wednesday night. The apparent end to a five-day confrontation between the neighbouring Gulf emirates followed intense diplomatic moves, led by Saudi Arabia, to resolve the issue. The sources said the 24 Filipino, two British, two Thai and a Dutchman, who were seized at a construction site on the Fasht Ad-Dibal coral reef, were to be released from seclusion in Qatar later Wednesday or Thursday (Earlier story on page 2).

Explosion reported at Indian plant

CALCUTTA (AP) — A gas explosion and fire heavily damaged a plant that makes a crucial material used in Indian nuclear reactors, but a government energy official said Wednesday no radioactivity was involved. Two persons suffered minor injuries and the plant was cordoned off after the explosion and fire Tuesday night in eastern Orissa state, the United News of India reported.

Indian commandos raid Sikh hideouts

NEW DELHI (R) — Commandos on Wednesday swept into extremist hideouts in the Golden Temple complex to put down a revolt by separatists who declared a Sikh nation Khalistan in India's northern Punjab state. Minutes after the raids began firing broke out, but first reports said there were no casualties in searches of offices and guesthouses around Sikhs' holiest shrine in Amritsar. Security forces armed with automatic weapons cordoned off a 500-metre area around the complex and the old walled city of Amritsar was put under indefinite curfew.

INSIDE

* suspends butter sales to Syria, page 2
* dan marks Labour Day lay, page 3
* S. attacks against Libya led, Schurmann says, page 4
* S. tourists find a safer station in Soviet Union, page 5
* Town adopts innovative measures to curb tax evasion, page 6
* European court finds air fare fixing illegal, page 7
* Reagan regrets Soviet nuclear accident, page 8

Thousands threatened in Kiev nuclear disaster

Second 'meltdown' reported at Soviet plant

Combined agency despatches

WESTERN EXPERTS said on Wednesday they had indications of a meltdown of a second reactor at the devastated Chernobyl atomic power plant, and several European nations warned their people about the danger from what could be the world's worst nuclear disaster.

The Soviet Union said two people died in the accident at the plant near Chernobyl, 100 kilometres north of Kiev, but reports from U.S. officials in Washington, a Dutch ham radio operator and an American professor in Kiev indicated a much higher toll.

U.S. government sources said in Washington that intelligence agencies believe a second at the four-reactor Chernobyl complex either has already experienced, or is experiencing, a meltdown. Radiation spread more than 1,600 kilometres over much of Europe and prompted Sweden to warn against drinking contaminated rainwater and Austria to advise parents to keep infants indoors.

Children lined up at health centres in Poland for medication against possible radiation poison.

Several European leaders demanded that Moscow explain why it had not quickly alerted the world to the disaster, first detected in Scandinavia on Sunday but not confirmed by the Soviet Union until Monday. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher urged the Soviets to shut down all power plants similar to the Chernobyl facility.

Western experts said thousands could have died in the disaster and at least 10,000 people could face imminent death in the next 10 years as long-term effects of radiation sets in.

Dutch amateur radio operator Anns Kofman said he monitored a broadcast late Tuesday that appeared to come from near the crippled plant in which an unidentified ham radio operator said two reactors were on fire and "many hundreds dead and wounded."

Kofman quoted the Soviet ham radio operator as saying in emotional tones: "We heard heavy (Continued on page 2)

Moscow denies thousands died

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union denied on Wednesday that thousands of people had died in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster and said the accident had caused only 197 people to be hospitalised. A government statement said radiation levels around the nuclear station near Kiev were falling.

The statement, read out on television news, said: "Some news agencies in the West are spreading rumours that thousands of people, allegedly, perished during the accident at the atomic power station."

"It has already been reported that in reality two people died and that only 197 people were hospitalised. Forty-nine of them were discharged from hospital after a medical examination."

In Washington, U.S. officials said a second nuclear meltdown might have occurred.

At the same time Swedish communications company said a picture taken from the U.S. satellite Landsat showed what appeared to be two meltdowns.

Arab ministers remain wide apart on agenda for summit

FEZ, Morocco (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers appeared to be wide apart on the agenda for a proposed May 3 Arab summit as they arrived here on Wednesday for a preparatory meeting.

Libyan Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Al Mansour told reporters at the airport that a foreign ministers meeting being held on Wednesday was of international importance because it came "after a superpower committed a blatant attack on a friendly people without any excuse."

He was referring to the April 15 U.S. raid on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, which killed 43 people and wounded more than 160.

But Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn Alawi did not even mention the U.S. raid among items he said should be discussed in an Arab summit.

"The priorities should be as they were before," he said. "In the forefront should be the Arab cause and the Palestine issue, and then the Gulf war. Then should come any other issues that are brought up."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz did not mention the agenda issue, saying only "we believe in the need for joint Arab action to face the challenges and dangers facing the Arab Nation."

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said he was "optimistic that this meeting will be held in this good country."

The ministerial meeting in Fez "will discuss three main items: A venue for the summit, a date for the summit and the agenda," Lebanese delegate Fouad Turk said.

Syria reportedly boycotts meeting

FEZ (R) — Syria boycotted a meeting of Arab foreign ministers Wednesday in a move that dimmed prospects for a proposed summit here on Saturday, Arab diplomatic sources said. They said Syria did not attend because it wanted a restricted agenda for a planned extraordinary summit to discuss the U.S. bombing of the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi two weeks ago. Plans for a summit were already in jeopardy because of a clash between Libya and Gulf states which were pushing for the Iran-Iraq war to be the first item for discussion — instead of the April 15 U.S. air strike.

Mr. Genscher told reporters his trip was made against the background of anxiety among community members over a possible escalation of the Middle East crisis and of attacks in West Germany, following the recent U.S. bombing raid against Libya.

He said he told Mr. Assad during an hour of talks that West Germany could not accept the spread of "terrorism" and would fight it vigorously, whether the attacks were against Germans, Americans, or any other nationality living on German soil.

He also told the Syrian leader, who left later on Wednesday at the end of a three-day official visit, that "little terrorists could not be allowed to spoil European-Arab relations."

It was necessary to inject new life into the European-Arab dialogue, Mr. Genscher said.

Mr. Assad, who had just wound up talks here with Yugoslav President Radovan Vukobratovic, cancelled a lunch engagement to meet Mr. Genscher, who flew in from the foreign ministers meeting of the West European Union (WEU) in Venice.

Mr. Genscher said he was representing the European Community and had consulted other European ministers before the hastily arranged trip.

He said Mr. Assad, accompanied by his foreign minister and an aide, replied that Syria opposed acts of violence in foreign countries. Mr. Assad said he took Europe's concern seriously.

Unconfirmed reports said Mr. Assad, who has close ties with the Soviet Union, would visit Moscow after leaving Belgrade.

Mr. Genscher said he also discussed the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement, East-West relations and disarmament.

Later on Wednesday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported President Assad's return home.

Libya counters EC moves with retaliatory expulsions

Combined agency despatches

The British and Spanish governments and Italian news agencies said on Wednesday Libya has ordered the expulsion of a part of British, Spanish and Italian nationals living in Libya in retaliation for European Community (EC) sanctions against Tripoli.

The British Foreign Office said Libya announced on Wednesday that it was expelling 19 Britons in retaliation for the deportation of 22 Libyans from Britain last week.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman told Reuters the Libyan Immigration Department had ordered a total of five British companies to cut their staff in Libya by that number, but had not singled out any Britons by name.

Assad receives European message from Genscher

BEGRAD (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made an unscheduled trip to Yugoslavia on Wednesday to deliver a European Community (EC) message against international guerrilla violence to visiting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Genscher told reporters his trip was made against the background of anxiety among community members over a possible escalation of the Middle East crisis and of attacks in West Germany, following the recent U.S. bombing raid against Libya.

He said he told Mr. Assad during an hour of talks that West Germany could not accept the spread of "terrorism" and would fight it vigorously, whether the attacks were against Germans, Americans, or any other nationality living on German soil.

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KING ATTENDS EXERCISES: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, talks with army officers and soldiers during a visit he paid to an army formation on Wednesday (See story above)

Jordan and Egypt reach wide-ranging agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt on Wednesday signed the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee held in Amman between April 28 and 30.

The minutes of the meeting, which reached comprehensive agreements on cooperation in the fields of agriculture, trade, health, information, mining, manpower, telecommunications, cultural relations, planning, transport, fishing and tourism, were signed by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The minutes are as follows: Economic cooperation and trade exchange

A. Both sides agreed to speed up procedures for endorsing documents for the establishment of the Egyptian-Jordanian Investment and Development Company so that it can start implementing projects.

B. Both sides considered a maritime fishing company as one of the holding company's projects which will carry out operations on the high seas in the Mediterranean and the Red Seas. This company will set up fisheries in both countries and conclude contracts with other parties.

C. The two sides approved the establishment of a joint company for processing and producing fodder and lean meat.

This project entails breeding sheep in Jordan beginning with 100,000 heads and another farm for raising cattle in Egypt beginning with 20,000 heads.

D. Both sides will study the prospect of implementing a joint project in Jordan, also under the joint holding company, for the production of agricultural seeds.

E. Contractors from Jordan will be invited to Egypt to study the formation of a joint contracting company under the provisions of the holding company.

In the field of trade exchange, both sides agreed on:

A. Concluding equivalent trade deals.

(Continued on page 5)

Norwegian minister voices concern over dangerous Mideast situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norway's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Thorbjørn Frymnes has relayed to Jordan his country's assessment of the dangerous situation in the Middle East region resulting from the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Wednesday.

Petra said Mr. Frymnes, who was speaking at a meeting with Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Thouran Al Hindawi, also referred to the dangerous situation in the Gulf region in the light of the on-going Iran-Iraq war. He said the dangers of the Gulf conflict threaten Europe and other parts of the world, Petra said.

During the meeting, Mr. Hindawi discussed with Mr. Frymnes world issues in general and reviewed bilateral relations.

Mr. Hindawi said the Middle East region was in danger due to the absence of a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Gulf war. He said Jordan has been seeking a just solution that would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland through an international conference.

Mr. Hindawi emphasised the role which European countries can play in establishing peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Frymnes arrived in Amman Wednesday morning at the start of an official visit.

In a statement upon arrival, he said that Norway appreciated His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to achieve Middle East peace.

Mr. Frymnes said his visit to Jordan was in the course of a tour, he was making to Arab countries to discuss the Middle East conflict and other world issues of common interest.

Crown Prince meets Frymnes

Later on Wednesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office with Mr. Frymnes. During the meeting the Crown Prince and the minister reviewed Middle East developments and world issues and Jordanian-Norwegian relations.

craft heavily bombed the Bakhtaran airport, hitting airport buildings, the runway and a number of parked vehicles.

On the other hand, Iran claimed fresh gains in its campaign on southern Fao Peninsula.

An Iranian war communiqué, quoted by Tehran Radio, said a total of 5,100 Iraqis had been killed and wounded in the two-day-old Fao battle.

But an Iraqi communiqué said Iraqi forces repulsed an Iranian attempt to advance northwards from Fao.

The Iranians last February invaded Fao and entrenched in a narrow strip behind an expanse of salt marshes and swamps.

"The Iranians tried to attack positions and were quickly engaged by all weapons of the Seventh Army," said the Iraqi communiqué. "The battle raged Monday night and throughout Tuesday. Under effective air cover and behind artillery barrages, our forces managed to arrest the Iranian advance attempt and beat it back at enormous losses in weapons, equipment and lives."

Iraq said Tuesday night its air

OPENING TOMORROW

Soviet Book Exhibition at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Great Variety of Political, Literary, Scientific and Children's books in Arabic & English.

The exhibition will continue until May 8

Prince Hassan, Egyptian prime minister visit RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday reviewed the general economic conditions in the occupied Arab territories and discussed Israel's drive to link the economy of the West Bank with that of Israel in a bid to weaken the Arab economy and Arab steadfastness. He also spoke about Jordan's role to strengthen the Arab people's resistance in the face of these Israeli actions.

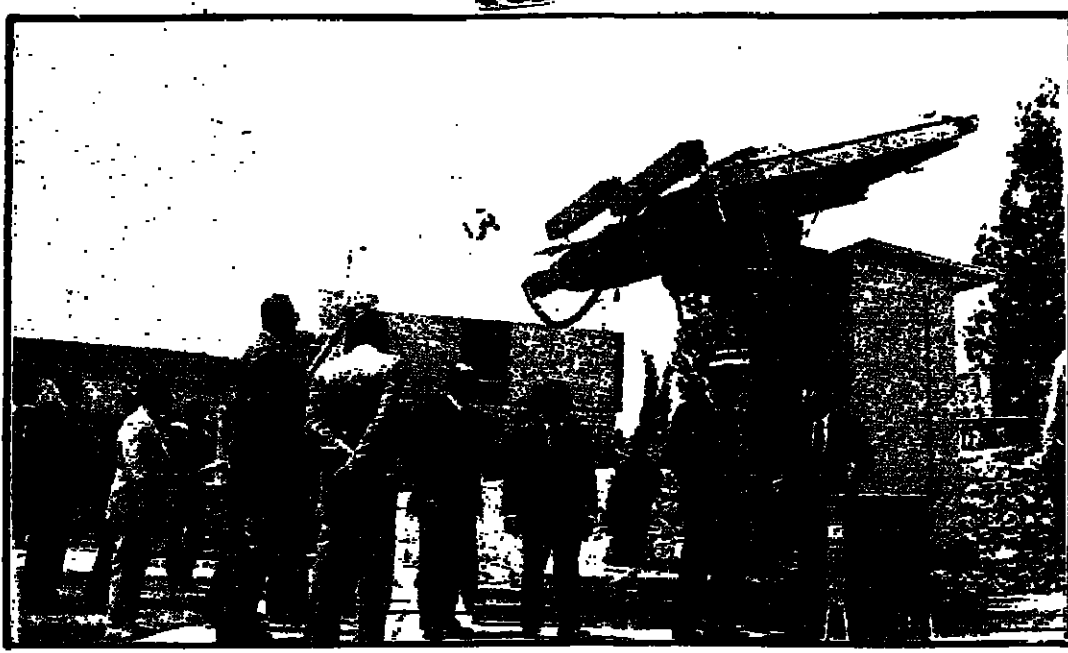
Prince Hassan discussed the situation in the occupied territories during a meeting with visiting Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi who paid a visit to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on Wednesday.

Prince Hassan accompanied Dr. Lutfi on a tour of the RSS's sec-

tions and briefed him on the various services they offer and the scientific research undertaken by the RSS to develop Jordan's industry and to help the country absorb modern technology.

He also spoke about the country's agricultural programmes which, he said, are designed to promote the national economy. Referring to the new (1986-1990) national development plan, Prince Hassan said that it was designed to realise real growth in gross national income.

Also speaking during Dr. Lutfi's visit was RSS President Fakhreddin Daghestani who outlined the development of the RSS and the programmes it has been carrying out.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and accompanying Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi on a visit to the Royal Scientific Society (Petra photo)

Jordan marks Labour Day today

Government departments, institutions close for national holiday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan marks Labour Day today and a number of official and social activities will take place to observe the occasion. All government departments, public and private businesses and schools will be closed on Thursday and the Arabic daily newspapers will not appear on Friday.

Central council secretary general of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Samir Qardan said Wednesday that a main reception will be held at the GUVS site under the patronage of Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan. A number of key ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and GUVS officials will attend the reception during which speeches and addresses on the labour movement in the Kingdom will be delivered, Mr. Qardan told

the Jordan Times.

GUVS has sent congratulatory cables to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The cables were sent by the GUVS secretary general on behalf of workers throughout the Kingdom.

Television documentaries and radio interviews with Mr. Haj Hassan and the GUVS secretary general will also be broadcast, Mr. Qardan said.

He added that a special celebration to present workers with token prizes for their contribution to the labour movement in Jordan is expected to be organised as soon as repair and maintenance works have been completed at the Palace of Culture.

The celebrations will stretch over one week in the governorates and other parts of the Kingdom and a number of delegations representing labour movements in the Arab World are expected to attend the activities.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that his ministry supplements its employment offices with qualified cadres and modern equipment to improve their efficiency, especially in locating and providing job opportunities, organising the employment of incoming labour and organising and following up Jordanian labourers' affairs abroad.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dajani meets Iraqi transport official

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Rajai Al Dajani Wednesday met with under secretary at the Iraqi Ministry of Transport, Mr. Chassan Radwan. Both sides discussed transport issues concerning Jordan and Iraq and means of further bolstering ties in this field. Mr. Dajani, who was recently appointed to post, and Mr. Radwan, who is president of Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company, also discussed issues related to the joint company's operations and development.

AUC delegation in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the American University of Cairo (AUC) and grouping James Peloske, chief officer, Mrs. Andrei Weheiba, director of alumni development, and Mrs. Mary Iskandar, director of alumni and trustees relations, are currently visiting Amman. The purpose of their visit is to attend the annual alumni meeting arranged by the AUC Alumni Club in Jordan and to meet with potential Jordanian students interested in joining the university.

British water experts due Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — A British trade mission representing the British water industry is due here Friday on an eight-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior officials at the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) on strengthening cooperation between Jordan and Britain in the field of water projects. The mission comprises 16 British experts on water. WAJ President Mohammad Saleh Al Kellani paid a visit to Britain and held talks with officials at the London Water Authority on cooperation between the two countries in water-related fields.

Embassy presents cheque to CPF

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) has received a cheque for JD 709 from the U.S. Embassy in Amman, from the proceeds of a musical programme organised recently by the embassy in cooperation with a U.S. musical troupe. Mr. John Wilcox, public affairs counsellor at the U.S. Embassy, presented the cheque to CPF Vice-President Joan Mary Al Majali.

Schoolchildren knock on doors to raise funds for national cancer centre

By Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Nearly 5,000 schoolchildren took to the streets Wednesday at the start of a three-day campaign to raise funds for charity and for building the Amal National Cancer Centre in Jordan.

The children, donning specially marked T-shirts and caps and provided with boxes for the collection, knocked at doors visited banks, companies, factories, stores and various organisations and also approached pedestrians and drivers on the streets to collect contributions required for starting the centre.

The campaign is being carried out throughout the country with the greatest number of children, nearly 700, in Zarqa, according to

the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which is organising the campaign.

Nationwide campaign

GUVS executive director Abdullah Al Khatib said that committees for the campaign have been set up in all towns in Jordan and that boys scouts and girls guides, in addition to various government departments, are co-operating to make the campaign a success.

Speaking on a call-in radio programme on Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Khatib said that the campaign was going on well and that many citizens have donated large sums, with some individuals offering JD 1,000.

GUVS has enlisted the help of schoolteachers and principals and

the Ministry of Education has issued instructions to directors of education in all regions urging them to cooperate with the national teams and to involve as many youngsters as possible in the fund-raising campaign. Several restaurants are providing food free of charge for the children taking part in the campaign, according to Dr. Khatib.

At least JD 1 million is needed to get the first stage of the Amal Cancer Centre underway and the overall cost is expected to reach JD 8 million.

A similar campaign run by GUVS last year raised JD 650,000 according to Dr. Khatib who explained that the projected centre will be free of charge for those unable to pay the cost of treatment.

Cabinet okays minutes of aviation talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet Wednesday endorsed the minutes of a meeting held between the civil aviation authorities in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Under the minutes signed in Amman on March 29, Jordan will allow the Emirates Airways to operate between Amman and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The cabinet also decided that Jordan should take part in an international conference on telecommunications, due to be held in Yugoslavia in the coming month. Jordan will be represented at the conference by two TCC specialists.

The cabinet also decided that Jordan should take part in an International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference to be open in Geneva on June 4.

Dakhqan, Hijazi meet with W.German parliamentarians

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan Wednesday met with a visiting delegation from the West German Lower House of Parliament (Bundestag). The minister paid tribute to the cooperation between the West German government and the ministry and thanked West Germany for financing some agricultural and development projects in the Kingdom.

The delegation was briefed on projects being financed by the West German government, among which are the Zarqa River Basin Project, an afforestation project and a vaccine and sera production project. Attending the meeting were senior ministry officials and the West German Ambassador in Amman Herwig Bartels.

Also Wednesday, the delegation was received by Acting

Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Ismail Hijazi in the presence of Lower House deputies Khaled Al Fayyad, Nazih Amarin and Mufid Al Mubaslat. Mr. Hijazi praised the friendly relations between Jordan and West Germany and expressed appreciation for the aid provided by West Germany for a number of development projects in the country.

Mr. Fayyad presented a briefing on parliamentary life in Jordan and outlined the duties of the Lower House's various committees. Deputy Mubaslat called on the people of West Germany to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to support efforts aimed at reaching a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Dr. Amarin also stressed the desire of Arabs to establish peace and end wars in the region.

Spellbinding, simple forms typify Bader's ceramics

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Inaugurating the new, if temporary, exhibition space at the Abdul Hamed Shoman Foundation Building in Shamsani is an exhibition of ceramics by artist Issam Bader. The work of Bader, who has previously held solo exhibitions all over the West Bank and in Amman, makes a fine first show, for the artist has produced in his Ramallah studio a new line of work, whose decoration and form is spellbinding in its simplicity.

Deriving his functional shapes from those that have been used in the region generation after generation for storage and cooking, as well as for drinking and eating, Bader has created jugs, vases and bowls complete with slender handles and well-fitting lids. The ceramic pieces flow with careful precision from narrow bases through full, pleasingly round bodies to openings of varying but perfectly proportioned dimensions. Their gentle curves make you want to reach out and touch them as do the inviting textures of the different glazes and incised patterns.

Geometric designs

The geometrical designs of these patterns, which have all been derived from embroidery on traditional dresses of the Palestinian women, are sparingly applied, the motif just running down the front of the piece or once around the centre. This frugality of decoration, the careful and admirable restraint of the artist — it is always easier to put too much than too little — blends with the gentle sobriety of the pieces and enhances their pure forms and dark matt background glazes.

Bader, who has recently resigned from his post as director of the Centre for Applied Arts based at Birzeit University in order to become a professional artist, has also been sparing in the colours of his glazes. The background glazes are either a very resful and appealing matt black or the natural stone colour, like that used on a lovely tableware set whose large chunky bowls and covered tureens

epitomise in decoration and design Bader's new direction. The occasional dark grey and brown glazes are colours derived from the two basic glazes. The geometrical designs, which sometimes resemble the marble chips in an old mosaic floor, are picked out in only four colours — red, blue, yellow and white.

Varying proportions give rise to slightly different hues in the glazes but generally the colours, except for the exciting dark purple interiors, are much the same from one pot to another which gives Bader's collection a strong sense of continuity and coherence.

ART REVIEW

There are, however, some breaks in the continuity, like for example the two large but finely made vases one of which is adorned with a pattern of swimming fish and the vases whose large simple calligraphic designs set them apart.

Of the many sculptural pieces on display which show the influence of Bader's early training in Baghdad in 1973, the best is perhaps the piece that symbolises war and peace, where the empty spaces between the free standing forms mean so much, if not more, than the pieces themselves.

Completing the collection are a series of oil paintings depicting the blocky houses and domed rooves of old Jerusalem. Often in soft, hopeful colours, these abstracted cityscapes convey the sense of the foundations of the city as well as its skyline in which often float a stylised dove of peace.

Other exhibitions

Of the many exhibitions that opened all over Amman this last week, Bader's is certainly the most stimulating and enjoyable. Two other exhibitions worth a visit are the ones by Abdul Raouf Shamma at the Jordan Artists Association premises in Jabal Weibdeh and by Yarmouk University Professor Insaaf Rabady, whose interesting and well-executed black, white and sepia drawings can be seen until the end of the month at the French Cultural Centre.

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VIEW FROM AMERICA

By Franz Schurmann

How the U.S. media portrayed attack on Libya

SAN FRANCISCO — For readers in the Middle East, an American view on the media coverage of the U.S. attacks against Libya may be of interest. Most surprising in that coverage is how negative it has been.

The U.S. Congress was in almost solid support of the raids. Public opinion polls show most Americans approved of the raids. A poll of French public opinion showed similar approval. It has been reported in the American press that many Egyptians were glad a blow was struck at Qadhafi. Nevertheless, the American media showed in considerable detail the vehemence of the foreign reaction against those raids.

And in interviews with U.S. politicians, the press noted and the television networks filmed the nervousness of many of them as they, rather blandly, gave support to the raids.

The press and television

know full well how worried Western publics are about terrorism. The summer tourist season is coming up. People are worried about flying. And most Western publics by now are convinced that Col. Qadhafi is "the great terrorist." So it is not surprising that they approved of the raids.

But the politicians, officials, and the media and academic professionals are concerned with more than "sucking it to the terrorists." They worry about war, economic fluctuations, spreading revolution. They also have a sense as to when official actions succeed, neither succeed nor fail, or fail. And these raids by the Reagan Administration failed.

They were intended to kill Qadhafi. And they did not. They were supposed to be a clear "win" for the United States, and they now look more and more like a clumsy lunge which failed, just as our Challenger shuttle flight failed and our Titan rocket failed. Were

the bombs which exploded and others which did not American bombs or were they Libyan missiles which fell back to explode on Libya's own soil? We shall never find out. But the point is that the Americans first prided themselves on the perfect "surgical" accuracy of their strikes, and then the failures began to appear.

Governments come and go, only God knows how long Col. Muammar Qadhafi will stay in power. But at a time when so much in the Middle East is again in crisis, my country's government committed a brutal act which failed. The Israelis commit brutal acts which often succeed. And so even if they reap hatred, they also gain respect. America's respect in the Middle East is at a low point. The failure of the attacks on Libya means that respect has gone down even more.

The American media have not tried to glorify the raids. They have allowed them to

appear as a failure. They have shown shots of civilians in Tripoli killed and injured. Col. Qadhafi cleverly allowed American journalists to keep on reporting from Tripoli. We saw the shattered military barracks where he lived with his bedouin tent close by. We heard on American media our Defence Secretary first deny there was any intent to kill Qadhafi, then we heard admissions that perhaps this was not entirely true, after the photographs of the damaged barracks came from Libya. And the media have shown the negative reaction in Europe, and the body of the Britons and the one American slain in Lebanon as retaliation for the raids.

In the past thirty five years, whenever American leaders became emotional over some foreign issue, they have done foolish and stupid things. Washington became emotional over China in the early 1950's. In the end, nothing was gained from the emotionalism. In the

1960's, Washington became emotional over Vietnam. From that the United States gained the first defeat in a foreign war in its history. Now the United States has become emotional over "terrorists," the PLO, Col. Qadhafi. Why such emotionalism? In every case it came from internal sources.

In the case of China and Vietnam, in both cases it was from the anti-Communist right wing. In the case of the Arabs, it is from just about the entire Democrat party plus much of the Republican party both of which are in the grip of pro-Israeli forces.

Yet in the case of China and Vietnam, the stupidities of foreign policy emotionalism finally backfired on the United States, and sane leaders, especially Richard Nixon, made bold moves to rescue the United States from its blunders. I am convinced that this will happen vis-a-vis the Arab and

Muslim World as well.

No matter how powerful the Zionist hold on American political processes seems to be, it is a grip made of brittle metal. It is clearly absurd that the foreign policy of this great nation vis-a-vis one of the world's most important regions, the Middle East, seems to be solely determined by whether it helps the Israelis gain a firmer grip on the territory they took from others.

The media sense this, though they will not say it. Many American Jews also know it though they too are reluctant to speak out. But the stupidities committed by the United States in its attempts to get rid of Libya will, in my view from America, hasten the process whereby American elites will eventually recognise that their obsession with Israel is leading this country once again to a catastrophic brink, just as happened with China and Vietnam in past years.

Time to help others

THOUSANDS of school children have embarked on a campaign to raise funds for the projected Amal Cancer Centre in Jordan. The word 'Amal' in Arabic means hope, and it is being used to give 'hope' for cancer patients struggling to defeat the disease that threatens their lives.

Thousands of young volunteers have decided to make it their business to collect contributions and give hope to the cancer patients through treatment at the projected centre. This small army of youngsters "knock at the door" of citizens and visit companies, banks and other organisations, seeking help in their drive to fulfil the dream of the cancer patients, and trying hard to serve this noble cause. Last year's limited campaign brought in a handsome collection, but through this year's three-day campaign the organisers hope to raise at least JD 1 million, enough to start the first phase of the project.

For this to happen, the wealthy in particular are called on to contribute generously; and the proceeds of exhibitions, football matches and part of public companies' annual profits should in fact be dedicated to serve this humanitarian objective. The current campaign offers a bright opportunity for the rich to participate meaningfully in doing good to others, and allowing the General Union of Voluntary Societies to extend charity to less fortunate people in our community and those in urgent need of medical treatment. It is indeed time for the government and parliament to join in and encourage, perhaps through legislation citizens and organisations to give away part of their annual income for the common good. The children out in the street are doing their best to help. So, let us give them a chance.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Foreign ministers draw summit agenda

ARAB foreign ministers Wednesday open a meeting in Rabat designed to pave the way for the Arab summit on Saturday. At stake, is the ministers' ability to achieve a sufficient measure of solidarity among Arab states to make the summit capable of attaining success. These ministers face the formidable task of minimising differences among Arab states to such a degree that would allow heads of state meet at a table to discuss the various problems of concern to this Arab Nation. As the Arabs meet, their enemies continue to hatch plots against them, and as they prepare for the summit their enemies try to undermine any agreement. With this in mind, the Arab ministers should do all they can to make their leaders discuss all questions of concern to the Arab Nation. These leaders must realise that the dangers now confronting the nation in the east, or in the west are directed against all Arab states without exception. This fact should prompt the Arab leaders and heads of state to take serious steps towards implementing a joint action, and applying a united strategy that would preserve their interests and their rights.

Al Dustour: Lutfi praises relationship

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Ali Lutfi Tuesday focused light on the ongoing Egyptian-Jordanian meetings and said that they form serious steps towards bringing about progress for both peoples. He underlined the importance of the meetings which he said are supported by the political leaderships in Amman and Cairo because they aim at bolstering inter-Arab relations and achieving integration. Dr. Lutfi told editors of the local press that the meetings are introducing cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in two new fields: health and industry. He said that Jordan and Egypt have vast opportunities for cooperation in industrial and health affairs and therefore they should try in every way to benefit from them in their attempt to arrive at total integration. The two countries can start first by exchanging expertise and by cooperating in operating hospitals and nursing colleges, and can unify their standards and specifications in industry prior to taking further steps in both fields. The two countries have succeeded in the field of transport and the development of the Aqaba-Nuweibeh sea land route, and they should do every thing possible to develop other areas and serve the common goals.

Sawt Al Shaab: Questions over the summit

THE Arab summit might not be held in Fez on Friday as was thought earlier because the decision on that should come from the Arab foreign ministers' meeting opening in Rabat Wednesday. Unless the foreign ministers achieve progress in their agreement on the agenda, there can be no summit at all, let alone a successful one. The foreign ministers should first agree on the fact that the leaders must discuss all issues not only America's raid on Libya or the Iranian aggression on Iraq. The questions of Lebanon, Palestine and the Ethiopian aggression on Sudan should all be placed on the table. These ministers must also agree that all Arab leaders without exception should be there and not their representatives. Libya's call for holding the summit on its territory and not in Morocco, represents a mine designed to blow off the idea of a summit from its very foundation because it means asking the Arabs to discuss the raid on Tripoli alone. We hope that the foreign ministers will find a way of overcoming all issues serving as obstacles in the path of the summit.

U.S. troops train in Central American jungle warfare

By Matthew Campbell
Reuter

FORT SHERMAN, Panama — President Reagan denies he has any plans to send U.S. forces to fight in Central America but here in the dense Panamanian jungle, American troops pretend otherwise.

At a training centre on Panama's Caribbean coast, GIS are learning the arts of jungle warfare in exercises pitting them against make-believe Marxist Central American insurgents, though their commander says their training is not geared specifically towards Nicaragua.

"You've got to look above you, behind you and in front of you," a U.S. trainer warned a platoon of soldiers in one exercise here recently — a raid on a mock Salvadoran guerrilla camp designed to familiarise the trainees with insuring at booby traps.

The soldiers were part of a 600-strong battalion undergoing a three-week course at the Fort Sherman jungle operations training centre (JOTC), part of the Panama-based U.S. Southern Command.

The Southern Command, coordinating all U.S. military activities in Latin America, runs an extensive network of military bases in the so-called "canal zone" a strip of land flanking Panama's canal and controlled by the United States under a treaty with Panama expiring in 1999.

Many of the troops who fought in Vietnam received training in Panama.

Faces daubed in green war paint, rifles at the ready, the troops moved warily along a jungle path amid a din of blank artillery rounds set off by hidden trip wires.

At the pretend guerrilla camp, they were shown assorted homemade weapons including "punjee sticks" (bamboo spikes in pits covered by branches and grass) and anti-personnel mines.

"This is what you'll find in any guerrilla camp in El Salvador, Honduras or Nicaragua," the trainer said.

The rebels were played by U.S. troops in blue jeans and T-shirts, wielding Soviet-made AK-47 rifles. Their faces were marked in handkerchiefs, guerrilla practice to avoid being recognised later. "back in the village," the trainer said.

JOTC commander Lieutenant Colonel Cline Williamson denies the centre, founded in 1951, is geared towards readying U.S. troops for an eventual U.S. intervention in Central America.

"We aren't orienting them (the troops) specifically towards Nicaragua," he told Reuters, noting that the United States had "strategic responsibilities worldwide."

Nicaragua, whose ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) is seen in Washington as the source of regional conflict, has been the target of increasing U.S. hostility.

A proposal by President Reagan to give \$100 million this year in aid to the so-called contras,

guerrillas fighting the FSLN, has spurred fears among administration critics that the president might eventually resort to sending U.S. troops.

Reagan accuses the Sandinistas, who came to power in 1979, of spreading Communist revolution in Central America by funneling arms to leftist rebels in El Salvador.

U.S. military officials at the Southern Command said U.S. policy towards Nicaragua was aimed at gradually strengthening the guerrilla opposition to take away the need for committing U.S. troops. "The idea is to get them (the rebels) to do the fighting for us," said one official.

Another official said he believed Reagan, who sees Nicaragua as a springboard for Soviet expansionism in the western Hemisphere, had exaggerated the threat the Sandinistas posed. "What are they going to do? Line up their 15-year-old troops and march them north across the Mexican border?"

Up to 11,000 U.S. troops from an average 12 to 15 battalions pass through the JOTC each year, earning a much-prized "jungle expert" arm patch. Apart from lessons in jungle combat, the troops are also tutored in elementary survival.

The JOTC, covering 23,000 acres near the Caribbean entrance to the canal, is largely responsible for the U.S. army's field manual on jungle operations.

During the Vietnam war, JOTC chief Williamson said, the emphasis was on individual survival. For the past five years attention has been focused on training battalion-sized units for combat — rather than just survival — in the jungle.

Yet the course also appeared designed to harden feelings against the guerrilla enemy, who, the troops are told, commits widespread atrocities in his war to topple the government.

Williamson said El Salvador had been chosen as a theme for some of the exercises here because "that (El Salvador) is the only insurgency we've got going on down here."

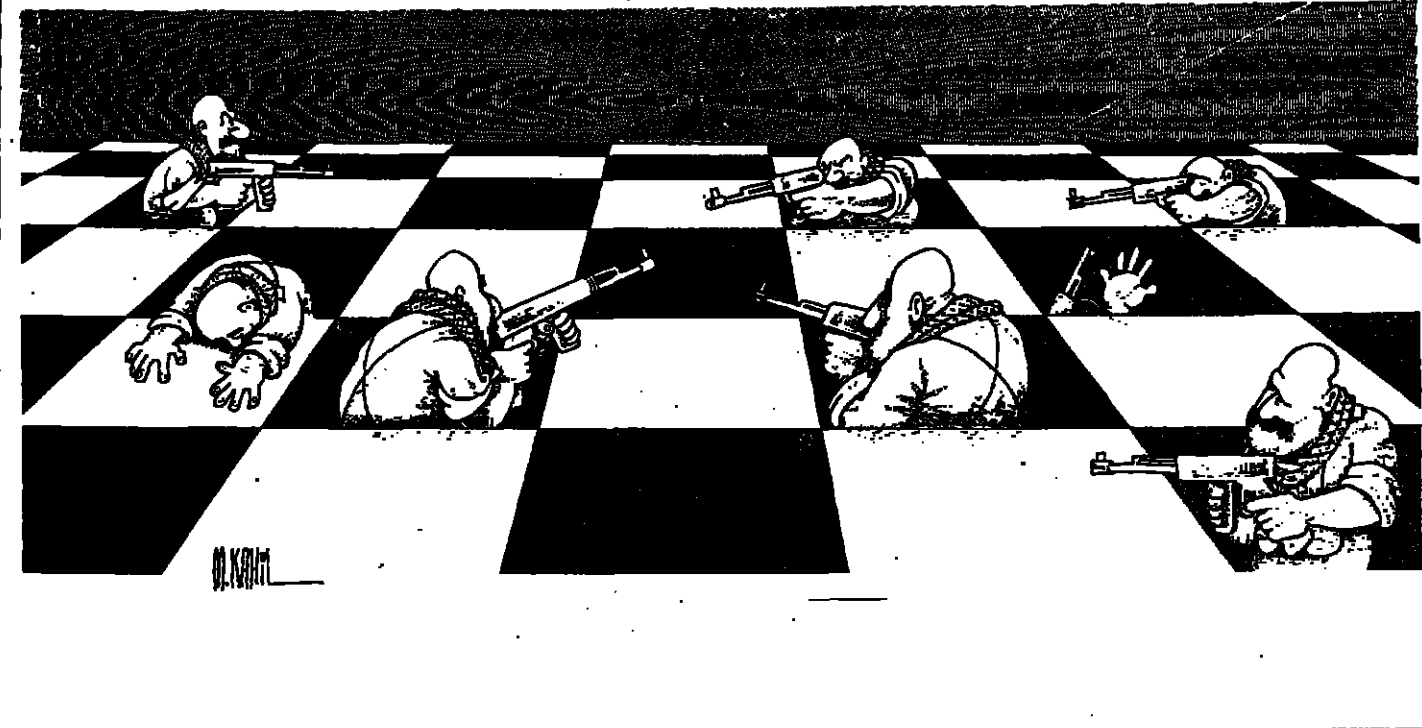
Williamson said El Salvador had been chosen as a theme for some of the exercises here because "that (El Salvador) is the only insurgency we've got going on down here."

Williamson, 42, who did three tours in Vietnam, said information gathered from El Salvador was used to create a realistic scenario in the exercises.

During training, troops are shown video films from El Salvador, where rebels have been battling U.S.-supported governments for the past six years.

The instructor said guerrilla leaders were often "college graduates trained in fanaticism" in Cuba and the Soviet Union and well supplied with weapons from Soviet bloc nations.

"I want to get at those sons of bitches. I hate those guys," said one of the trainees after being told the rebels might also poison food caches to kill government troops.



While Arabs look on helplessly, Israel pushes back into Africa

By Julian Smith

ON December 18, 1985, it was announced that Ivory Coast was renewing diplomatic relations with Israel. It thus joined Zaire and Liberia, which had taken this step in 1982 and 1983 respectively. Egypt, which began relations after Camp David, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland, which never broke them off, and Israel's best known friend in the continent, South Africa.

The October war of 1973 provoked a crisis in Israel's relations with black African states, whose friendship it had been cultivating since the 1950s. Israel had begun well by presenting itself as a struggler against colonialism — and British colonialism at that — and by stressing a common heritage of discrimination: Arabs had been guilty of discrimination against Jews as Europeans had against Africans. The African countries regarded Israel as being unfiliated to either of the superpowers, despite rumours — substantiated by revelations in the late '70s — of CIA funding of Israeli arms. Israel's official proclaimed aim was simply to gain the friendship of African peoples and governments, but at the same time, less officially, it saw its standing in the U.S. and Europe as being determined by its relations with the countries of Asia and Africa, and like the Western powers, it was anxious that Africa should not fall into the communist camp.

A country that plays on its moral rectitude has a hard task to live up to it. It was certainly hard for Israel. Black African attitudes started to change gradually after 1963 with the foundation of the OAU which linked the Arab countries of North Africa with the states south of the Sahara. Although the radical anti-Zionists, led by Egypt, compromised on the issue of Israel in order to see the organisation get off the ground, the Arab states there after worked hard to get their view across. The obvious parallels were drawn between the situation of blacks in South Africa and that of the Palestinians.

Then, in 1967, Israel occupied part of the territory of an OAU member, Egypt. Reaction among other members was muted at first, but they gradually gave stronger support to Egypt, supporting U.N. peace missions, and in 1971, even sending one of their own. All of this came to nothing. The only result was that black African sta-

tes became more and more convinced of Israeli recalcitrance and more and more sceptical of its alleged moral superiority.

The October 1973 war brought these feelings to a head, and nearly all the countries of black Africa which had not already done so broke off relations. Not that the break was complete; Israel was allowed "special interest" sections in the embassies of third countries in some countries and retained less official links with others. Israel has let it be known, for example, that in 1981 it had links with 22 African countries, and that 4,000 Israelis were working in them. Almost half of these are in Nigeria. The links between Israel's foreign intelligence service, Mossad, and the NSO, Nigeria's internal security service, were embarrassingly revealed over the Dikko kidnapping affair, for which three Israelis and one Nigerian have been jailed in Britain. But Nigeria is walking a tightrope: as a member of OPEC it has felt obliged not to antagonise the Arab members, and in addition, Nigeria has always been strongly opposed to the South African regime. It can hardly resume diplomatic relations with a country that is seen to be colluding so closely with Pretoria.

Other states in West and Central Africa are known to have discreet, or not so discreet, military and intelligence links with Israel. The presidential guard of Paul Biya in Cameroun is acknowledged to consist of French and Israeli elements. Israeli observers are said to have accompanied Zairean forces in Chad. There are rumours of Israeli offers of aid to groups aiming to overthrow the regimes of Ghana and Burkina Faso. Israel is known to be interested in the uranium deposits of the Central African Republic.

And all this in spite of Israeli links with South Africa. It is true that Israel has joined in U.N. condemnations of apartheid — but Israel has little respect for that body, or its condemnations. At official level the Israelis deny that they have a special relationship with South Africa. They deny that they have close military ties, or that they recognise the "homelands." Yet Ciskei, for one, has representatives in Israel. Few doubt that the two countries collude over secret nuclear developments. And both countries share a common ideology of a God-given right to the land they occupy.

So far, only Zaire, Liberia and Ivory Coast have come into the open about their relations. The leaders of the first two have made triumphant and widely publicised visits to Israel; both have signed economic agreements in a range of fields, and both have accepted military and intelligence help. U.S. money is thought to be helping to fund these arms purchases. Certainly the U.S. has indicated that good relations with Israel could enhance the relations of the country in question with the U.S. itself.

Israel has found a way to play on the all too obvious divisions within the OAU by pinpointing Libya as the weak point in Afro-Arab solidarity. Libya is seen to be active not only in the conflict in Chad, but in harbouring and encouraging opponents to the regimes in Niger, the Central African Republic and Zaire. The Ivorian government saw Libya behind the serious teachers' strike of 1983. While he rejects some of these accusations, Qadhafi adds fuel to others. He claimed that Libya had been responsible for Numeiri's downfall and, on a visit to Rwanda and Burundi not long afterwards he called — most undiplomatically — for the overthrow of Mobutu of Zaire. When Samuel Doe went to Jerusalem, the Israelis played on his anxiety about Libyan interference in Liberia which was probably why he agreed to resume relations. The Israelis promised to provide him with all their intelligence reports on Qadhafi's doings.

It is not only Libyan expansionism as such which has disconcerted many Africans with the Arab states in general. The two main conflicts which have disrupted the OAU over recent years, Chad and the Western Sahara, are regarded as being largely Arab in the making, and the black African states resent being drawn into quarrels which they feel do not concern them. In the 12 years since the 1973 war, the black African states have lost confidence in the Arabs to give them economic help. They feel that they were not cushioned from the rise in oil prices that followed that war. The Arab states can point to their bank for Africa, BADEA, which began operations in 1975, and to a number of development projects which it has helped to finance. But the fact remains that Arab development aid has gone in much greater quantity to Arab countries. Furthermore, the Arabs have imposed conditions on their

aid — notably that no Israeli-connected firm should be given contracts on Arab-financed projects — which some African states consider humiliating.

Now African states are wondering why they shouldn't restore relations with Israel. They see that the Arab countries have normal dealings with states that not only have diplomatic ties, but are very close allies of Israel. They see that Egypt, the country for whose sake they broke off relations in 1973, restored them itself in 1979. Zaire, Liberia and Ivory Coast have all stated that they still want a settlement in the Middle East which takes Palestinian rights into account; they claim dialogue is the way to reach peace. When taxed at a press conference in October with not having condemned the Israeli raid on Tunis, Ivory Coast's President Houphouët-Boigny replied: "When I see my brother suffering, I don't just sit down and weep with him. I prefer to act so that he need not weep again." But refusal to condemn such a brazenly illegal act is unlikely to have given his "brother" much confidence in Ivory Coast's impartiality as a peacemaker.

Certainly the Arab states are worried about Israel's new push into Africa. Although so far only three states have actually broken ranks, there is hardly a state in West and Central Africa whose name has not been mentioned confidently in the last couple of years as being on the point of following suit. The fact that these predictions have not yet been fulfilled does not mean that they are unfounded. It seems likely that the movement towards resuming ties will gather momentum as the Arab states look on helplessly.

The fact is that the division which exists in West and Central Africa is being played upon by outside powers. Are the countries that reject "manipulation" by the Arabs not also being manipulated themselves? Israel and the West are worried not only by Colonel Qadhafi; they see Africa largely in terms of East-West conflict, and any state — however corrupt — that stands against the "radicals" is to be cultivated. But it is ironic that at a time when at last world attention is focussed on the plight of the victims of apartheid, the victims of Zionism, the Palestinians, should be largely ignored, and that the Zionists, friends of Pretoria, should see their stock rising in Africa — Middle East International, London.



Tracking cancer: causes of malignancy now appear to include viruses as work towards vaccine increases

By Marilyn Chase

SAN FRANCISCO — When a Los Angeles housewife and her 24-year-old daughter both succumbed to liver cancer in the same year, their case sent a tremor of recognition through cancer sleuths.

Such a family cluster, though common in China, is rare in the U.S. But both women were chronic carriers of hepatitis-B virus, an infectious agent that is increasingly implicated as a suspected cause of cancer.

The discovery that in certain cases a virus can lead to cancer dates from 1911, when F. Peyton Rous found one that causes tumours in chickens. Dr. Rous waited 55 years for a Nobel Prize, and his followers have found the pace of recognition frustratingly slow.

In the 1970s, the hunt for tumour viruses was all but eclipsed by the study of other causes of cancer, notably oncogenes and environmental carcinogens. But now tumour virology is making a comeback amid mounting evidence of strong links between at least four major virus groups and several kinds of cancer.

Slow to act

Cancer, whether it results from a genetic flaw, a poisonous industrial miasma or an untraceable mutation, always inspires fear. But cancer as an infectious disease, transmissible through blood, sex, childbirth or mother's milk, may seem especially bad

news. In tumour virology, "the important thing is that (some) cancer can be catching," says Robert Gallo, the National Cancer Institute scientist who identified a viral cause of some leukemia.

He contends, however, that this shouldn't be a cause for alarm. "You want to think of these as very inefficient cancer viruses," he says. That is, many more people get the virus than develop cancer, and other risk factors must often be present to help turn infection to malignancy.

The good news is that finding a viral cause of some cancers may give scientists a handle on prevention, detection and treatment. Medicine has scored huge successes against certain viral diseases, such as smallpox and polio. And if a virus proves to be a link in a complex chain of carcinogenesis, breaking that one link might block the tumour.

Getting vaccinated

Already, hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese are rolling up their sleeves in a vast immunisation programme against hepatitis-B — and, it is hoped, against the liver cancer that so often grows in the wake of the infection. Some scientists believe it will prove to be the first case of anti-cancer vaccination.

Several companies are taking things a step further by trying to genetically engineer a vaccine against the hepatitis-B virus. They include Chiron Corp., which lic-

ensed its technology to Merck & Co.; Smith Kline Beckman; Genentech and its licensee Mitsubishi of Japan and Institute Merieux of France; Biogen and its licensee Burroughs-Wellcome and Green Cross; Amgen and its licensee Johnson & Johnson; Connaught Laboratories of Canada; and Pasteur Vaccines of France.

Many tumour virologists say that viruses alone don't cause cancer. A raft of risk factors — sunlight, smoking, certain diets, genetic susceptibility, even stress — may help overthrow the body's controls on orderly cell division and unleash the anarchy of growth that is cancer.

Moreover, for a great many cancers, such as colon and lung, there is no evidence of a viral link. Others, such as Hodgkin's disease and breast cancer, present only grounds for suspicion, not any smoking gun.

But researchers such as Dr. Gallo and William Haseltine of Harvard and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute contend that several kinds of cancer, including leukemia and tumours of the nose and throat, genitals and liver, do involve viruses. They cite four such viruses and expect more to be found.

Sea change

Such views among mainstream scientists are quite a change. Dr. Gallo, sitting among hundreds of like-minded researchers at a recent conference on tumour viruses, says, "Ten years ago, we would

have been lepers at a meeting like this." One investigator says that at that time his study of cancer viruses was dismissed by an influential figure at the National Cancer Institute as "silly." Now, Dr. Haseltine confidently predicts that "this will be the decade of tumour viruses."

The decade opened with publication in 1980 of what some believe is the most convincing evidence of a virus-caused tumour. The cancer, a rare but rapidly fatal leukemia, was first identified on the Japanese island of Kyushu. It involves a wild overgrowth of T-helper cells, key sentries in the body's immune response.

Though it is more prevalent on Kyushu, it also is endemic in the Caribbean, and there are pockets of the disease in the southeastern U.S. Two American patients helped supply clues to its cause. A young black man from Georgia and a Caribbean-born black woman from New York with the disease were admitted to the National Cancer Institute, where Dr. Gallo isolated a virus from their blood.

He named it HTLV-I, for human T-lymphotropic virus, and later it was identified in more than 90 per cent of Kyushu leukemia patients studied. Nailing down another piece of evidence, Dr. Gallo demonstrated that in a culture dish, the virus could transform normal cells into malignant ones.

In Kyushu, 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the people have antibodies to this virus in their blood. But Dr.

Gallo emphasises that the virus languishes in a latent form for up to 40 years, and "only one out of 100 people" gets the leukemia.

Epstein-Barr virus

Another suspected cancer virus is the Epstein-Barr virus, which is as common as HTLV-I is rare. A member of the herpes family, it strikes 90 per cent of Americans by young adulthood and is most famous for bringing on mononucleosis, or "kissing disease." But its long-term consequences in some cases can be much graver. They apparently include a slow-growing cancer of the nose and throat.

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma, as it is called, attacks 50,000 to 100,000 people a year, particularly Chinese, Africans and Eskimos. A key piece of evidence surfaced when doctors found that in patients with the cancer, antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus declined after their tumour was treated with radiation or chemotherapy but rose again if the tumour bounced back.

Why does such a common virus produce only a flu-like illness in some people and a deadly cancer in others? Some speculate that age at the time of infection is critical. People in less-developed countries often get infected in infancy, permitting a longer incubation.

Work is already under way on tests and vaccines. A private Baltimore, Md., company, Molecular Diagnostic Systems, wants to market a diagnostic kit. Researchers at Georgetown Uni-

versity and Merck are developing a vaccine. In England, M. Anthony Epstein, who co-discovered the virus, already is testing a vaccine in animals and has said human tests could begin in a year or two.

The fourth virus strongly linked to cancer is a family of 40 so-called human papilloma viruses, or HPVs. The growths they cause can be as minor as a benign plantar wart on the sole of the foot. But sometimes, virus-affected cells deep within the body of a woman assume the telltale spindle shape of cervical cancer, the world's fifth most common malignancy. The family member that unleashes its cellular havoc is HPV 16.

HPV infections as a group currently vie with herpes for the title of the most common sexually transmitted disease. U.S. doctor visits for genital warts caused by HPV viruses have soared 730 per cent in the past two decades — to over a million a year. While it is thought that such warts don't generally lead to cancer, these numbers show how the virus family's target population has zoomed.

And HPV infections may smolder silently. A Georgetown University study of more than 200 women found that 10 per cent of those with normal pelvic exams in fact harboured HPV infections of one sort or another. "That's a fairly frightening number; we were shocked," says Wayne Lancaster, a molecular virologist involved with the study — Wall Street Journal.

Randa Habib's Corner

Be a good sport

ONE wonders nowadays whether sports are really sports, and where are the limits between competitive games and violence.

Hundreds of people, all over the world, were injured and some killed in the past few months at soccer games. Not that football is a dangerous game in itself, but because anger over contested goals or bitterness resulting from the loss of one's favourite team are factors behind field hooliganism.

The idea behind sports competitions is to encourage people, young and old, to keep fit, both physically and mentally. Sports are increasingly being encouraged at schools and colleges and people are happy to see their children tend to their physical needs and compete in decent manners. But, unfortunately, it seems that we lack the spirits of sportsmanship. What is the point of having games if the games end up in fights?

And while we were happy to note that sports were taking bigger part in our life in Jordan, and that interest of people for it is growing, today we only wish that this interest keeps within the limits of competition.

Those who feel they can't control their anger or bear their team's defeat should avoid going to the Sports City to watch the matches.

42 voices of Lebanon

AS of this month, there are 42 radio stations broadcasting in Lebanon. Eight belong to political leaders and parties; 27 privately run stations broadcast music and entertainment programmes. Seven stations are run by the various Lebanese ethnic groups. There is one government station.

Most of the stations are situated in the capital, Beirut, where one can tune in to a choice of 30 local stations.

In general, Lebanon's radio stations may be divided into three categories: those belonging to political leaders and movements; those run by various ethnic groups; and private commercial stations which broadcast music and entertainment.

The first of the political station is Saut Lubnan (The Voice of Lebanon). Established by the Falange Party in 1975, it broadcasts from a powerful transmitter in the Ashrafia section of (Christian) east Beirut.

Another political station is *Ihwal Lubnan al Hur*, or Radio Free Lebanon, belonging to the (Christian) Lebanese Forces. It began broadcasting in September 1978 from near the resort of Jouniya, up the coast from Beirut. It is heard clearly in most parts of Lebanon.

Saut Lubnan al Arabi, the Voice of Lebanon's Arabic-language counterpart, is another politically oriented station. It speaks for the independent Nasserist movement known as the Murabitoun, headed by Ibrahim Kilat. The oldest of the political stations, it began broadcasting in 1958, during the upheavals in Lebanon which led to the intervention of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, at the invitation of then president Camille Shamoun. It originally broadcast under the name "Popular Opposition Radio," but stopped broadcasting with the landing of units of the Sixth Fleet. It resumed broadcasting in 1975, with the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war.

A second Free Lebanon station (*Lubnan Hur*) broadcasts from the town of Zagaria in northern Lebanon. The station is managed by Ramat Hazan, a former director-general of the ministry of information. The station speaks in the name of Franjeh and broadcasts his views.

Saut Al Jabal (Voice of the Mountain) broadcasts from the Alei region of Mt. Lebanon. It belongs to the Progressive Socialist Party headed by Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

The Voice of the Homeland

(*Saut Al Watan*), established by former Prime Minister Saib Salem. It is run by Tamam Salem, son of the ex-leader.

The Voice of Hope (*Saut Al Amal*) broadcasts from southern Lebanon. It belongs to the South Lebanese Army headed by Gen. Antoine Lahad and is supported by Israel.

The Voice of the People (*Saut al Shaab*) is a new station, still operating experimentally. Heard clearly in the Beirut area, it is headed by Ali Hubeika, a former leader of the (Christian) Lebanese Forces, who is now one of the opponents of President Amin Gemayel.

The Voice of the Armed Struggle (*Saut al Nidal Almusalah*) was operated by the PLO in Sidon, until it was bombed by Israeli planes on April 7.

Nabih Beri, leader of the Amal movement and a cabinet member, is about to join the crowded air waves. He recently announced that Amal is planning to establish two radio stations in southern Beirut: a political station and a religious one, the latter to broadcast daily readings from the Koran.

The number of stations offering light music and entertainment is constantly growing, with a new one popping up every month or so. These are commercial stations which broadcast on the FM band (compared to the political stations, which are all on AM).

Most of the music entertainment stations are operated by Christians and broadcast mainly Western pop music from the Beirut area. Some of these stations bear English names or call signs, such as: Voice of the Cedars, Voice of the Youth, Radio Flash, Voice of Entertainment, Radio S.O.S., Radio Paradise, Radio 2000, The Radio, Radio Beirut, Radio B.B.S., etc.

The ethnic stations speak in the name of Lebanon's various ethnic groups and factions. They are seven in number: Radio Free Druze, two Armenian stations broadcasting in that language; the Voice of Rescue (*Saut Al-Farj*), a Christian station; Muslim Unification Radio, in Tripoli; the Voice of the Syrians, of that Christian sect; the Voice of Love (*Saut Al Mahabbah*), a Christian religion station.

There remains one station not previously mentioned. This used to be Lebanon's official and only radio station, and broadcasts under the name, The Lebanon Broadcasting Station (*Mahaal Ithai Lubnan*).

American tourists choose a safe place, the Soviet Union?

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Another fruit of the Geneva superpower summit makes its way down to the people this week with the resumption of direct commercial airline flights between the United States and Soviet Union.

Announcement of the service and a fear of terrorism in Western Europe and the Middle East have already prompted increasing numbers of Americans to schedule trips to the Soviet Union, according to Soviet officials and travel agents.

Pan American World Airways was scheduled to inaugurate its service on last Monday night with a flight from New York to Moscow, with a stop en route in Frankfurt, West Germany. Pan Am flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami also will connect with Frankfurt.

The Soviet airline Aeroflot, the world's largest air carrier, was to begin its service on Tuesday with a flight from Washington to Moscow, with a stop in Gander, Newfoundland. Aeroflot will begin serving New York on May 4.

The service is described as direct even though the planes stop en route because airlines from each of the host countries serve their citizens, with no third-country carriers involved.

The history of direct air flights between the Soviet Union and the United States follows closely the ups and downs of the countries' political relations. Pan Am and Aeroflot began direct air service in 1968. Pan Am ended its service in 1978, citing financial problems.

When Soviet forces entered Afghanistan in 1979, the administration of President Jimmy Carter ordered Aeroflot to stop its service to New York, but allowed it to continue serving Washington.

Two years later, the administration of President Ronald Reagan banned the Washington service because of alleged Soviet involvement in the imposition of martial law in Poland.

At their summit in Geneva last November, Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev aut-

Jordan and Egypt reach wide-ranging agreements

(Continued from page 1)

B. Continuing to implement an equivalent deal signed on March 31, 1985, after revising lists of commodities exchanged by the two countries in the light of world economic developments.

C. Lists of imported goods within the equivalent deals are not subject to regulations governing rationalisation or import licences in force in either country.

D. Both sides are committed to implement the deal in accordance with the lists of the equivalent trade deals.

E. Both sides will study the prospect of allowing the private sector in Egypt to import goods from Jordan within the framework of the equivalent trade deals provided the study be concluded within the coming month in time for an ad hoc committee to consider the result of the study during its meeting in Cairo.

F. Both sides agree to readjust banking arrangements for settling the payments to conform with the new measures.

On the subject of trade protocols signed by the two countries, both sides agreed:

A. That Jordan should submit lists of commodities it wishes to export to a special rationalisation committee in Egypt. Approval should be known during the Cairo meeting in May.

B. Both sides agreed on implementing a deal on Egyptian rice sales to Jordan. This entails shipping 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes to Jordan immediately.

C. Jordan said that specific instructions have been issued for shipping Jordanian cement to Egypt immediately in accordance with previous agreements.

1. The Higher Committee voiced its satisfaction with the achievements in this field, especially

in the exchange of agricultural products and exchange of visits by experts and cooperation in information on the manufacture of medicine and veterinary medications, plasticulture and drip irrigation.

2. The two sides agreed on maintaining a process of coordinating work between agricultural marketing companies to promote the sale of products in the markets of Egypt and Jordan.

3. Both sides agreed to maintain the process of allowing both countries to benefit from experience by either country in the packing and grading of agricultural products.

Transport

The two sides voiced satisfaction with the performance of the land sea route linking Aqaba with Nueibeh. The route has been transporting passengers and goods and vehicles through ferry boats. Fares on the route have been reduced.

The committee has decided to call the transport ministers of both countries to hold a meeting with officials from the passport, customs and visa and immigration departments in both countries to study means of facilitating travel and procedures and improve services for travellers.

Egypt has agreed to join the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company and abide by its regulations.

Both sides emphasised the importance of coordinating their five-year plans with the aim of eventually arriving at a total integration. The committee decided for this purpose to send a delegation of Jordanian specialists in planning to Egypt in the second half of June and study Egyptian five-year plan and to attend training courses held by the National Planning Institute in Egypt. The two sides also agreed to exchange information and expertise in regional planning.

Telecommunications

The committee expressed satisfaction with the achievements made so far and decided to give priority to Egypt in completing its own part of the 960-channel microwave telecommunications project linking Egypt with Jordan through Aqaba.

Cultural and Educational ties

1. Both sides agree to sign an executive programme on culture and scientific cooperation for 1986-1988. The signing will take place in Cairo in June 1986.

2. Egypt has agreed to accept Jordanian students living in Egypt in its government schools.

3. Egypt has agreed to speed up a process of absorbing Jordanian students in Egyptian universities and higher institutes of learning.

Tourism

Both sides signed a tourism agreement to replace a previous one. They agreed to encourage investments in tourist projects in Sinai and calling Jordanian investors to take part in Egyptian efforts in this respect.

Information

The committee reviewed past achievements in the field of information and decided to open a Jordanian tourism and information office in Cairo and to send Jordanian information officials to be trained in Egypt and vice-versa.

Manpower

Both sides decided to intensify bilateral contacts to facilitate and simplify procedures governing the movement and flow of manpower between the two countries.

U.S. women athletes are motivated achievers

USA

TWO Years ago in Washington, D.C., Billie Jean King presented objectives for the Women's Sports Foundation's (WSF) New Agenda. Now, King says, the public is more aware of "how far we've gone."

Her optimism is based on results of the Miller Lite/Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) Report on "Women in Sports. More than ever, the survey suggests, American women are comfortable with pursuing athletic goals.

"I never think of it as a battle or revolution," said King, a WSF founder. "I think it's part of an evolutionary process. The one thing this survey does is validate what the Foundation has already known."

One of the most encouraging survey results: Women 25 and under face fewer societal constraints as athletes.

"I'm a living example of many of those behaviours and attitudes," said (U.S.) Olympic swimmer Tracy Caulkins, 23. "Being involved has always made me feel really good about myself, and the survey indicates that."

Carol Mann, (U.S.) Ladies Professional Golf Association Hall of Famer and president of the WSF, said the survey indicates men and women are learning how to compete, in sports and beyond. "Some people see it as a war (between sexes), but I don't," she said.

Sandra Maxon, 30, a New York artist, works out three times a week and has shed concerns about male perceptions of her athletic participation.

"Stereotypes still exist, but that's only in the mind of the other (sex)," said Maxon, not a WSF member. "Women participate in athletics for themselves, and absolutely not to prove something to someone else."

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(Colour).

Reagan voices regret over Soviet nuclear accident

Shultz meets ASEAN foreign ministers

NUSA DUA, Bali (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Wednesday had separate meetings with six South East Asian foreign ministers as Indonesia maintained its tough approach to the foreign media.

President Reagan, who flew here Tuesday for a four-day visit, took things easy, but was briefed on the Soviet nuclear disaster by National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

Mr. Reagan expressed deep regret to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev over the accident near Kiev and set up a special study group to monitor developments, the White House said.

Mr. Shultz had separate 30-minute meetings with the ministers of Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei ahead of Thursday's scheduled talks between them and Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Reagan also will meet Indonesia's President Suharto who is worried by declining world oil prices.

Indonesia's government, which Tuesday barred three foreign reporters from covering Mr. Reagan's visit to Bali, impounded Wednesday's edition of the International Herald Tribune which carried four critical articles on the country.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja defended the government's action in deporting the three journalists, and told a news conference that Indonesia did not have to like Mr. Reagan's "winds of freedom" message.

Mr. Reagan, making the first

visit by a U.S. president to South East Asia in more than 10 years, flies on to the Tokyo economic summit of leading industrialised countries on Friday.

He has said he is bringing the "winds of freedom" to Asia and will appeal in Tokyo for concerted action against terrorism and trade barriers.

Asked if the deportation of reporters at the start of the visit had blunted Mr. Reagan's message, Mr. Mochtar said: "The winds are still blowing, but there are some people who did not like the wind."

"We are not against press freedom, but we don't have to like it. I mean when the hurricane hits you, you don't have to like the hurricane."

Meanwhile, Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel said on Wednesday that he hopes U.S. President Ronald Reagan will make plain in their upcoming meeting that he has stopped supporting former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr. Laurel said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz assured him during talks on Wednesday that Mr. Reagan has told Mr. Marcos "to forget all plans to return to power."

But Mr. Laurel said some opponents of the new government of President Corason Aquino still believe Mr. Reagan supports Mr.

Marcos and the meeting on Thursday will give the president an opportunity to clear up those "cobwebs of doubt."

"Tomorrow I will get it straight from the horse's mouth," Mr. Laurel said.

He also told a news conference here that he hopes Marcos will remain in the United States for the time being until the new government establishes its stability, but that the former ruler would be welcome to return to the Philippines at some time in the future.

"We're not going to stop him from coming home," Mr. Laurel said. "We're just asking him to stay there for a while. We think it's good for him to stay in the United States for a while. When the country's stabilised — and it won't take very long — then he can come home."

Mr. Reagan telephoned Marcos on Sunday during a stop in Honolulu, where the former president is living in exile, and U.S. sources said afterward that Mr. Reagan gave Marcos no encouragement for his hopes of returning to power.

But Mr. Laurel said Mr. Shultz indicated Mr. Reagan was more direct.

The vice president said Mr. Shultz told him "that President Reagan did tell President Marcos that as far as President Reagan is concerned there is no question he recognises the Aquino government — the new government — as the legitimate government with whom he can deal and that Mr. Marcos should forget all plans to return to power."

5 African nations seek end to UNITA support

LISBON (R) — Five Portuguese-speaking African countries have called on the United States to stop backing Angolan rebels and to resume the search for peace in southern Africa, Angolan News Agency (Angop) said Wednesday.

In a statement at the end of a two-day summit in Luanda Tuesday, the presidents of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe also said that South Africa's apartheid system and its aggressive policies were the sole cause of violence in the troubled region, Angop reported.

The communique, entitled the "Luanda Declaration," accused the United States of duplicity in claiming to seek peace while giving political and military support to Angola's UNITA rebels, who have fought the government since independence in 1975.

It appealed to the U.S. government to resume a positive role in the region by seeking to establish peace and stability.

"But a previous and necessary condition for this is that the American government must reexamine its attitude of support for organised terrorism," the declaration said. The Angolan government frequently refers to UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels as "terrorists."

The communique also called on South Africa to implement on Aug. 1 a U.N. resolution on independence for Namibia (South West Africa), ruled by Pretoria in defiance of the United Nations.

The communique repeated previous accusations made by the Angolan government that Washington had lost credibility as a mediator in southern Africa by deciding this year to back UNITA.

"These actions, far from promoting peace and stability in southern Africa, encourage organised terrorism and intensify violence in the region," the communique said.

The five former Portuguese African colonies also attacked what they said was South Africa's support for UNITA and for right-wing rebels fighting Mozambique's Marxist-led government.

Craxi to stand down as premier next year

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi will stand down next spring to resume control of his Socialist Party, the party's vice-secretary, Claudio Martelli, was quoted as saying Wednesday.

According to several Italian newspapers, Mr. Martelli told party officials Tuesday night that Mr. Craxi, who has been prime minister for a record of more than two years and eight months, would return to the helm of the party at its annual congress next year.

Mr. Craxi's return would coincide with the start of the party's campaign for parliamentary elections in 1988. Mr. Martelli has acted as party leader since Mr. Craxi became the first Socialist to head a post-war Italian government on Aug. 4, 1983.

On Monday Mr. Craxi celebrated 1,000 days in office at the head of a coalition government made up of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Social Democrats,

Republicans and Liberals.

His government, the 44th since the end of World War II, had already passed the previous record of 833 days in power.

La Stampa quoted Mr. Martelli as saying coalition leaders had been prepared to see Mr. Craxi remain in office until the elections.

But continuing support by Christian Democrats, the largest coalition partner, was linked to a long-term pact under which they would provide the prime minister in the next administration — a pact the Socialists did not support, the newspaper said.

Mr. Craxi resigned last October after disagreements within the coalition about Italy's behaviour over the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

President Francesco Cossiga rejected the resignation and Mr. Craxi later obtained a fresh vote of confidence in parliament.

Third World objects to requested U.N. economies

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Third World states, representing an overwhelming U.N. majority, has objected to economies recommended by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to end the organisation's financial problems.

Their spokesman, Ignace Golob of Yugoslavia, said the organisation's cash situation seemed to be better and the task before the General Assembly might, therefore, be easier.

Mr. Golob's statement in the 159-nation assembly on the second day of an emergency session on the U.N. cash crunch was seen in Western quarters as confirmation that many developing lands are sceptical about the seriousness of the situation.

As was the case Monday, there were scores of empty places in the General Assembly hall and no sense of crisis despite Mr. Perez de Cuellar's assertion that the U.N.'s future is at stake.

The Third World group of 77 — actually 120 states now, although 77 initially — believed that failure to accept and abide by the principle of member states' equality was at the core of the problem, Mr. Golob told the assembly.

The United States, whose withholding of more than \$250 million in funding is a critical element in U.N. fiscal problems, is seeking weighted voting on finances with

the big payers entitled to a bigger say than they have now.

Mr. Golob said using financial power to impair U.N. functioning was contrary to accepted norms of international behaviour.

He said the group could not accept Mr. Perez de Cuellar's recommendation of a three-week curtailment of the next General Assembly (to save \$1.1 million) and other cost-cutting measures applied to meetings.

A target cut of 30 per cent in the number, duration and frequency of meetings, proposed by the secretary general, was sweeping and required additional information, Mr. Golob said.

Objecting to a proposal that verbatim records be reduced, Mr. Golob said meetings without records would mean that what was said was valueless.

Mizuo Kuroda of Japan, a major contributor of U.N. funds, expressed concern about Mr. Perez de Cuellar's freeze on recruitment for the secretariat, which he said was of deep concern to Japan, the most seriously under-represented members.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

World record set for lizard hatch

DETROIT (R) — A lizard native to Mexico has produced eight offspring in a Detroit zoo, setting a world record for the number of its kind to be born in captivity. The eight bearded lizards were born from one clutch of 13 eggs, topping the previous record of four lizards born in a single hatching, according to Terry Doyle, spokeswoman for the Detroit Zoo. The reptiles were born in January, but the zoo kept their birth quiet until the animals had grown large enough to be considered in stable condition, she said. The Detroit Zoo also claims the previous record, set in 1983. The lizards, now about six inches long and black with cream-coloured stripes, live in the wild only in the western states of Mexico. Their bite can be fatal to humans, and zookeepers handle the animals with tongs.

Builders find fortune in gold bars

PEKING (AP) — Three builders digging a hole at a Ming Dynasty temple in China's Sichuan province discovered 30 gold bars worth almost 250,000 million yuan (\$78,125), the Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. The builders handed in the bars, weighing 9,500 grammes (333 ounces), and were rewarded for their honesty, the agency said. The amount of the reward was not reported. The gold was found at stone Buddha temple in Changshou county, near the city of Chongqing. It is believed to have been buried by a Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) official, the agency said.

Cattle rustlers kill 37 villagers

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Cattle rustlers armed with spears, arrows and guns killed at least 37 peasant farmers and wounded several others in western Tanzania, the official news agency Shuhata reported Wednesday. It quoted the Serengeti district commissioner, Laban Makunge, as saying the victims were ambushed at Gibao village along Lake Victoria, about 690 kilometres from Dar Es Salaam, the capital. Makunge said the farmers were apparently tracking rustlers who stole 60 head of cattle last week. Cattle rustling is common among East African pastoral tribes who also frequently feud over grazing and water hole rights.

India reports first AIDS cases

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India has detected its first confirmed cases of the fatal disease AIDS, in six women in the southern Tamil Nadu state, the health minister told parliament. The government said it had issued instructions to stop the import of blood and blood products without certificates that they were free from the virus. Experts have expressed fears of an outbreak of AIDS in India, saying its spread in this country of 750 million people would lead to a "medical disaster." The victims are the first confirmed cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in India, although press reports since last year have talked about several suspected cases.

Jail governor locks out guards

GLOUCESTER, England (AP) — The prison governor locked the guards out of Gloucester Jail in a dispute over manning levels and, with 20 assistant governors, personally took over guarding the 270 inmates, officials said. The lockout was the latest clash in a worsening dispute between the 18,500-strong Guards' Union, the Prison Officers' Association, and the Home Office, which runs the country's overcrowded and often antiquated jails. On Monday night negotiations broke down, and National Union leaders are scheduled to decide soon whether to call a strike.

Ershad bans campaign against election

DHAKA (R) — The government has banned an opposition campaign aimed at stopping next month's Bangladesh elections and blacked out news on a protest rally by a party bitterly opposed to the poll.

The official BSS news agency said the order was issued Tuesday night by President Hossein Mohammad Ershad, who has ruled the country for four years under martial law.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Begum Khaleda Zia has denounced the elections planned for May 7 as a farce and has declined to participate.

Mrs. Zia told an estimated 70,000 people at Tuesday's rally in Dhaka that Gen. Ershad was using the military to promote his

political ambition and called on the armed forces to step in and stop the poll.

Wednesday morning's newspapers failed to report the rally in the centre of the capital and there were no reports carried on government-controlled radio and television.

Political observers said the appeal to the military, which has intervened frequently in Bangladesh, was a main reason behind the government order and the news blackout.

Gen. Ershad has promised a clean election and has said it would lead to a restoration of civilian rule. Some 1,527 candidates will contest 300 seats.

Opposition activists burned campaign offices of two rival par-

ties Tuesday after their leader called for a six-hour strike to protest against next week's parliamentary elections in Bangladesh.

Police said several workers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were arrested after setting fire to three offices of the pro-government Jatiya Party and the opposition Awami League, which are fighting the elections.

The incident was the latest in a wave of violence ahead of the poll. Earlier, police said a former member of parliament had been killed and beheaded and at least 400 people injured in the pre-election violence.

The arson attacks occurred soon after Mrs. Zia called at the Dhaka rally for a six-hour national protest strike on Sunday from 6 a.m. until noon.

Forty reported killed in rival Tamil rebel clashes

COLOMBO (R) — Fighting raged between two rival Tamil separatist groups in northern Sri Lanka for the second day running, the government and state-run press said.

Security sources said at least 40 rebels were killed in Tuesday clashes in Jaffna between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation.

They said fighting spread to Kilinochchi and Vavuniya in northern province Wednesday as an Indian delegation began talks in Colombo over fresh Sri Lankan proposals to find a peaceful end to conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

The two groups are among five major guerrilla organisations fighting government troops in northern and eastern areas in a bid to set up a separate Tamil state.

The state-run Daily News, quo-

ting military sources, said that the rivalry was spilling over from the Jaffna peninsula "... and perhaps will spread to Tamil Nadu (in south India) where terrorists bases are situated."

India denies Sri Lankan allegations that guerrillas train at bases in Tamil Nadu, home to 50 million Tamils, but admits leaders of the main rebel groups live in the state.

An Indian delegation led by P. Chidambaram, minister of state for administrative reforms, held talks with President Junius Jayewardene on the ethnic problem, officials said.

They said the delegation, who arrived Tuesday night, was also due to meet several cabinet min-

Afghan troops bulldoze houses in Kandahar for security belt

ISLAMABAD (R) — Soviet and Afghan forces besieging the southern Afghan city of Kandahar are bulldozing suburban houses and orchards to create a security belt around the city, according to Afghan rebel commanders.

The siege, a daily barrage of bombs and artillery combined with street fighting inside the encircled city, has entered its third week with no end in sight, they said in letters received in the Pakistani city of Quetta Tuesday night.

The commanders reported guerrilla gunners had shot down six MIG fighter jets and two helicopters but did not say when.

Western diplomats here believe the rebels brought down at least 12 Soviet helicopters and planes early in the siege as Soviet pilots bombed the city indiscriminately. They had no information on later fighting.

The Communists have set up 37 military posts of at least 15 soldiers each in the razed no-man's land south east of the city. But Afghan troops in 14 of them have already defected or surrendered to guerrilla forces, the commanders added.

They have now begun tearing through villages to the north west of Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, to build the next section of the security ring there, they said.

Rebel morale was high despite heavy casualties in their ranks and among civilians who ignored warnings early this month to evacuate the battered city, the diplomats,

quoting reports from Kabul, said.

The siege began 15 days ago when Soviet and Afghan troops surrounded the walled old city and attacked rebels who control most of its narrow-alley bazaars.

The fighting later spread to shari-Nai (new city) and outlying districts of Kandahar.

The commanders claimed rebels were destroying up to 10 armoured vehicles a day but the Communist attack, the toughest they had ever seen in Kandahar, continued unabated.

The commanders reported heavy rebel and civilian casualties but gave no figures. One group said it lost 38 men in a day.

Travelers from Kandahar said on April 20 about 170 guerrillas had been killed in the first five days of fighting.

Soviet and Afghan forces have since tightened patrols along the 100-kilometre road to the border, forcing wounded to take detours of up to four days to reach clinics and hospitals for them in Pakistan.

The commanders estimated Communist troop strength at 15,000 while they said they had over 5,000 men fighting inside the city and attacking the Soviet and Afghan security belt from outside.

The guerrillas on the outside broke through the initial siege on April 20 to resupply men in the city, they added.

The diplomats said Af-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OWEN SELBIE
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TOO CLEVER BY HALF

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

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The bidding:
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Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

With two rounds to play in the European Championship, the pre-tournament favorites from France were still in contention. In the penultimate round, however, they were blitzed by Switzerland and had to be satisfied with a tie for third place. This hand was largely responsible.

With most of his values in the dummy suit and with partner known to be short in that suit, North's

TO THE PARTICIPANTS

in the first seminar of the Higher Arab Committee for Pharmaceutical Affairs

Council of Arab Health Ministers

The second seminar by the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

The Higher Committee invites all participants in the seminar to call at the registration committee to receive literature on the seminar from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2, at the Intercontinental. The seminar will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, at the Intercontinental Hotel.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Emswiler

FRUITFUL
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1. Flying saucer
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